

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4383

S E C R E T CAIRO 5607

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SALZBURG TALKS

REF: STATE 130974

1. I TOO HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAME THING MENTIONED REFTEL. WHEN SEEING FAHMY BRIEFLY AT YESTERDAY'S PORT SAID CEREMONIES YESTERDAY, AND BEFORE I HAD SEEN REFTEL, I TOOK OCCASION GENTLY TO TAX HIM ON PRESS REPORTING ATTRIBUTED TO EGYPTIAN SOURCES SUGGESTING A NEW INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT. I REMINDED HIM THIS IS CONTRARY TO PRESS HANDLING WE HAD AGREED UPON AND FOR THAT MATTER TO EGYPTIAN INTERESTS. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL STRESS THAT ALL OPTIONS ARE OPEN AND THAT NO CONCRETE DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO BE SO, BUT CHARGED WE SEEM TO BE LEAKING THIS KIND OF IDEA TO THE PRESS. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY STORIES WRITTEN BY (UNNAMED) AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAD BEEN ON THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT QUOTING "A HIGH US OFFICIAL" WHICH, AS HE PROFESSED TO HAVE READ THEM, SUGGESTED USG FOCUS WAS SHIFTING TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

2. I TOLD FAHMY THAT HE WAS WRONG, BUT THAT IN ANY

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CASE I SAW NO POINT OF GETTING INTO A SLUGGING

MATCH AS TO WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT STORIES. AS WE HAD AGREED AT SALZBURG, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH SIDES PLAY MATTERS VERY DISCREETLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE RABIN VISIT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO WHAT THE PRESS IS TOLD. WHILE PRESS SPECULATION OBVIOUSLY CANNOT BE AVOIDED, I THOUGH IT IMPORTANT THAT WE LEAN OVER BACKWARDS TO TRY TO INSURE ANY SUCH PRESS SPECULATION CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL BRIEFINGS.

3. I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS POINT TO FAHMY AS NECESSARY.
EILTS

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